

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

This Amendment amends the specification and claims 1, 3, 9, 14-15 and 20-27, and replaces the abstract, to correct typographical errors and to clarify claims 3 and 14. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments Claims 1-31 will be pending in this application. Claims 1 and 20-27 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The Declaration is objected to as being defective. To obviate the objection a Substitute Declaration is attached.

The abstract is objected to because of misspelled words. To obviate the objection the abstract is replaced with a new abstract.

Claims 1-31 are objected to because of various informalities. In addition, Claims 3 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. To obviate the objection and rejection the claims are amended.

Claims 24-25 and 30-31 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-27 of copending reissue Application No. 10/076,431. To obviate the provisional rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer is attached.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1, 2-19, 20-24 and 26-29 would be allowable is rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Office Action at page 5, lines 5-10.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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Attachments:

Marked-up copy of amendments
Abstract
Substitute Declaration
Terminal Disclaimer



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